

This is BILK 39 for January 1991 - BILK is published by Ulrich Magin - Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4 - W-6704 Mutterstadt - Germany. BILK is published bi-monthly and the current subscription rate is 15 German Marks for one year. News and views and general participation of readers is helpful and will be acknowledged.

BEHEMOTH

- Loch Ness: The October expedition has been mentioned in the last Bilk. From further clippings (Rhein-Zeitung, 6. Oct, p. 4; Frankfurter Rundschau, 6. Oct, p.22f) we learn that no sonar image or hazy photo will be sufficient to earn the £ 600,000 promised, but only the okay from the British Museum of Natural History. A certain "Screaming Lord Sutch" is said to have tried to lure the monster to the surface with a bait consisting of Haggies and British Rail sandwiches! The Rundschau quotes a AFP news story (AFP is the French news agency), so it appears as if this spurious expedition has been reported in all Europe.
- Bibliography: The Stuttgarter Zeitung (Oct 6, p.108) carried an AP report on the Lake Erie monster. In addition to the information given in last Bilk, the paper quotes a certain Fred Snyder, a scientist from Ohio, who says that a monster in Lake Erie is impossible as the lake was formed as recently as 12,000 years ago after the last ice age and could not be the habitat of a living dinosaur. -- July 1990 expedition for Ogopogo by Japanese TV team: INFO Journal 61, p. 29 -- Myself on secret submarines and sea serpents, and how the beasts are slowly turning into aquatic UFOs: INFO Journal, 61, p.22 - 25 -- Living Dinosaurs in Africa, German reports, including a lake monster story from Lake Tanganyika, by your editor, in Strange 6, p. 11 -- Loch Ness and tourism, Strange 6, p.29.

ISIS

- An article on Edgar Dacqué's theory of evolution, which includes aquatic amphibious men, by myself, in: "Die Pfalz am Rhein" 4/1990, p.26

LEVIATHAN

- Megamouth Shark: Finally, a megamouth has been observed and filmed alive! According to the Rhein-Zeitung, Oct 24, p.4 (with photo), a 5 metre, 900 kilogrammes shark with a giant, silvery mouth was caught in a net off the harbour of Dana Point, California. This is the 5th megamouth ever, and scientists have applied a sending device to its skin so they can track it. They believe that megamouth's habitat is at a depth of 700 metres. The first 4 megamouths were found off Hawaii, California, Australia and Japan.

KRAKEN

- Scotland: This report was covered by many newspapers in Germany (Rheinpfalz, 22 Oct; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 22 Oct, p.9; Stuttgarter Zeitung 27 Oct, p.124), but I have no British sources. "dpa" (German news agency) says that off Northern England and Scotland giant octopi threaten to ruin the lobster breeding industry. Because of mild wheather, the octopi have grown from their usual 15 cm (0.5 ft) to an enormous length of 1 metre (1 yard). A spokesman for the Northumbrian Fishery Association said on Oct 21: "The octopi crawl into the lobster breeding pools and eat everything. When a breeder hauls the pool to the surface, all he will find is an enormous octopus". A fisherman commented: "I have never seen anything similar in my 27 years on the Sea. These beasts grow longer than an arm."
- Bibliography: The attack of a giant octopus on a small boat off Manticao, Phillipines, on Dec 24, 1989, Strange 6, p. 28 (cf. Bilk) -- Fortean Times 55, p. 26 has an interesting story about a giant jellyfish "the size of a car" killing a French family. This may have happened sometime in 1987, but the story appears to be no more than a tabloid invention using mytholo-

gical material.

CRYPTOZOOLOGY

- Yeti News: A 2 m "abominable snowman" observed by an army patrol on the Soviet side of the Himalayas, see Rhein-Zeitung, Aug 16, p. 4 -- interview with Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner on his sighting of a yeti (a large black bear-like creature) and Messner's attempt to prove they exist, see Die Zeit, Nov 30, p. 66d -- Shipton's pictures of yeti footprints faked? Der Spiegel, Sept 10, p. 2 -- British researcher Jim Cowling, 43, plans to visit the USA and hunt the Sasquatch for 6 months, see BILD, Nov 14. -- "Museum officials in Brunei are investigating giant footprints which have been found in a village near the jungle. Matusin Omar, the director of museums, said today that his officers have taken plaster casts of the prints found in Kampong Menunggol." AFP report from Kuala Lumpur in the Saudi Gazette, Nov 24, p. 16.
- Discovery of a new species of monitor lizard in Yemen by German zoologist, The ISC Newsletter Winter 1989, p. 5. This discovery, as well as the sightings and captures of megamouth sharks, shows that, once a species is recognized, it is not too difficult to find it - even in unexplored deserts or the vastness of oceans. All who still believe in real yetis or lake monsters should think this over -- Sightings of Alien Big Cats in Germany, by your editor, in Fortean Times 51, p. 30 -- Many other items of CZ interest in the latest issues of FT, INFO and Strange.

USOS

- Trawler caught in net of British nuclear sub in the Firth of Clyde, a "mystery sub" area, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Nov 24, p. 9c -- Review of Earth Lights Revelation, Journal für UFO-Forschung, 5/90, p. 146-147 -- UFOs observed repeatedly over the German Baltic, Rostock and Usedom. Possibly aircraft lights. Reports in the BILD, Sept 1.

MARINE LIFE

- Whales: A sick dolphin was protected by his 6 buddies off Santa Monica near Los Angeles, to prevent his being washed ashore, Rheinpfalz Oct 20. -- A humped-back whale, nicknamed Humphrey, was washed ashore for the second time within 5 years in San Francisco Bay. The 9m/ 30ft animal could not be dragged back into the sea. He was medically examined and found healthy. In 1985, he had swum far into the Sacramento River delta, Rheinpfalz, Oct 25. -- Hundreds of dolphins were slaughtered by fishermen in Japan early in Nov, Sontag Aktuell, Observer, Nov 4; Saudi Gazette Nov 5. After worldwide protests, the Japanese authorities denied that the animals had been killed, but it had been "a mass suicide", International Herald Tribune Nov 7, p. 3c.
- Sharks: A 3m/10ft shark was caught close to the beach of Maria Pia in Sardinia, causing a panic among bathers, Rheinpfalz Sept 15. -- A thresher shark has been caught off the Dutch coast - it's the 3rd time a thresher shark was caught off Holland, De Telegraaf, Nov 1, credit: G. van Leusden.
- Crocodiles: An Australian woman was attacked by a crocodile 200 kms south of Darwin in Oct. The 4.5 m reptile had the unfortunate victim in its mouth, but the woman was saved by her son. The last croc related was in May, and before in Oct 1988. Reuters in Arab News Oct 8, p. 16; AP in Rheinpfalz, Oct 8.

ODDS & ENDS

- Possible discovery of Columbus' ships off Jamaica, Observer Nov 11, p. 68. -- A 150 million year old fossil of a rare marine reptile, called Liopleurodon has been discovered near Cambridge, England, Rheinpfalz Sept 13. -- The longest name of an American lake (cf. last Bilk), Die Rheinpfalz, Nov 6. -- Boing 727 missing over the sea off Newfoundland, Rheinpfalz Sept 13.